

TO: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Aaron Greenfield

SUBJECT: Resolution Request for Ellicott City Cable Company, LLC

DATE: March 27, 2008

I write to request that two resolutions be prepared accepting Ellicott City Cable Company, LLC's (ECC) applications for secondary cable franchise agreements.

Timeline

On May 9, 2007, the Office of Cable Administrator received two secondary cable television franchise applications. Applications were submitted for Taylor Village and Waverly Woods.

As required by the County Code, official notification of receipt of these applications was published in the October 4 and October 11, 2007 editions of the Howard County Times and Columbia Flier.

The County hired an engineer, Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC), to test and inspect the ECC systems. In October 2007, CTC visited ECC and noted a number of problems with FCC compliance and safety hazards.

Providing ECC an opportunity to take corrective action, CTC returned to ECC in January 2008. Following this visit, CTC filed a report with the County identifying and confirming that ECC had addressed all previous concerns. See attached report.

Open Competition

One of the ongoing concerns raised by the County and the residents has been the need for Waverly Woods and Taylor Village to allow cable competitors into both developments.

In the last several months, we have worked alongside Comcast and Verizon. At this point, Verizon has open access. While Comcast already services much of both communities, we are working with Comcast and the property owners to ensure Comcast's services will be available to all residents. The County will not enter into a cable franchise agreement with ECC until open competition and full consumer choice are available to all residents.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact to the County associated with these resolutions.

Recommendation

Approval of the resolutions.

Next Steps

Assuming the County Council approves the resolutions, the County will have 90 days to negotiate and enter into a cable franchise agreement with ECC. The 90 days may be extended for good cause.